

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the above-captioned application. In the Office Action, a restriction/election requirement has been made under 35 U.S.C. § 121, requiring Applicants to restrict the application to (or elect) one of the following species of the claimed invention:

SPECIES	FIGURES/DESCRIPTION
Species a	Figs. 1-8 and clamp of Fig. 9
Species b	Figs. 1-8 and clamp of Fig. 10
Species c	Figs. 11 and 12 and clamp of Fig. 13
Species d	Figs. 11 and 12 and clamp of Fig. 14
Species e	Figs. 11 and 12 and clamp of Fig. 15

Applicants provisionally elects Species a, to which claims 1-20 and 24-27 are directed. Accordingly, claims 21-23 are hereby withdrawn. This election is made without prejudice and the understanding that Applicant will have the right to pursue divisional applications on the non-elected inventions.

It is believed that claims 1-16 and 24-27 are generic to all listed species.

It should be noted that the specification contemplates that the variable clamp devices may be interchangeable with the different connector devices.

Application No. 10/692,460

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND OFFICE ACTION dated September 7, 2005

An action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY



Dated: October 7, 2005

Brian S. Clise

Registration No. 47,497

120 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3406
Telephone (312) 577-7000
Facsimile (312) 577-7007
418117